

--A welding control system for a welding device is known from patent document US 5 850 066 A, in which the welding device is able to retrieve data from a data bank via a network. This being the case, the welding device is connected to a network, in particular a computer network, by means of a communications interface, in particular a RS 232, so that corresponding data located in the network can be downloaded from a computer or a data bank via this data connection. The disadvantage of this system is that only one location-related data exchange can be operated with other components, such as a data bank or a computer.

Also known from the report entitled "Implementation of computer system for production and QA/QC in the Öresund link high bridge project", is the idea of using a computer system for quality assurance and for documentation purposes. In this computer system, welding drawings, test protocols, etc., are produced, entered and stored, in particular on a server, and can then be retrieved by another computer via a modem. The disadvantage of this system is that the data transferred via the computer can be retrieved by one other computer only, after which the devices, in particular the welding devices, have to be configured by skilled personnel on the basis of the transferred data.

A system is known from patent document EP 0 825 506 A2, whereby several clients are able to access a remotely disposed server via the internet or via an intranet and run a corresponding data exchange. A server is installed upstream of the terminal devices,